

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 STR-07 EB-08  
OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OES-07 AF-10  
ARA-10 /154 W

-----110522 010341Z /41

R 311312Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9130  
CINCPAC  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 1642

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, MPOL, IN  
SUBJECT: CINCPAC'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. CINCPAC ADMIRAL WEISNER CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA, ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR, ON JANUARY 30. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR DISCUSSION.

2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY BEGAN BY DESCRIBING HIS GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL TERMS. THE OBJECTIVE, HE SAID, WAS TO HAVE INDIA'S POLICY BECOME "MORE TRANSPARENT", BETTER UNDERSTOOD. MEHTA SAID THAT INDIANS ARE OFTEN ASKED ABOUT THE

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IMPORT OF THE 1971 INDO-SOVIET TREATY. IT DOES NOT, HE SAID, INTERFERE WITH INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND CITED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT VISIT AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS. THE SOVIETS FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS.

3. INDIA'S PRIORITIES WERE, THE SECRETARY SAID, CLEARLY ON THE SIDE OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT. INDIA IS "MUDDLING AHEAD."

GREATER MOMENTUM IS POSSIBLE IN A DEMOCRACY, THAN WHAT NEWS-PAPERS USUALLY REPORT.

4. IN REPLY TO ADMIRAL WEISNER'S QUESTION ABOUT INDIA'S EXTERNAL THREAT, MEHTA SAID INDIA HAS IMPROVED THE CLIMATE OF ITS RELATIONS IN ITS NEIGHBORHOOD. HE DATED THE PROBLEM WITH PAKISTAN AS STEMMING FROM THE 50'S WHEN PAKISTAN WAS AN ALLY OF THE US AND RECEIVED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN US ASSISTANCE. MEHTA STATED THAT SINCE 1971, PAKISTAN HAD INCREASED ITS MILITARY STRENGTH. INDIA RECOGNIZED THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAVE ANXIETIES ABOUT INDIA, AND INDIA WAS TRYING TO ASSUAGE THEM. HE SAID THIS HAS BEEN GOI POLICY FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. INDIA AND PAKISTAN ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERING THAT THEY ARE NEIGHBORS. TRADE HAS ONCE AGAIN BEGUN. INDIA'S DESIRE, THE SECRETARY SAID, WAS TO SEE A STABLE PAKISTAN. INDIA DOES NOT REJOICE IN PAKISTAN'S PROBLEMS.

5. TURNING TO CHINA, MEHTA RHETORICALLY ASKED WHAT THE RATIONALE WAS FOR THE PRC'S CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR MILITARY FORCES. HE NOTED THAT CHINA HAD A LARGE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT BEFORE THE SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT BEGAN IN 1960.

6. IN THE PAST CHINA HAS NOT HAD BENEVOLENT INTENTIONS TOWARD SOUTH ASIA. HE NOTED THE CHINESE HAD SUPPORTED PAKISTAN DESPITE THE FACT THAT PAKISTAN BANNED ITS DOMESTIC COMMUNIST PARTY. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO WAS NOT BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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IDEOLOGY. MEHTA ALSO MENTIONED (WITHOUT COMMENT) CHINESE SUPPORT OF THE MIZOS AND NAGAS WITHIN INDIA.

7. MEHTA SAID THAT INDIA WAS NOT AN ALLY OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY TO HARM CHINA. TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION EXISTED BEFORE THE ONSET OF SINO-SOVIET HOSTILITIES. HERE TOO, INDIA SOUGHT TO ASSUAGE ANY ANXIETIES THAT THE PRC HAD ABOUT INDIA'S INTENTIONS. COMMENTING ON INDIA'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH CHINA, MEHTA SAID THE BOUNDARY WAS CLEARLY DEFINED BY THE MONSOONS. THE WATERSHED IN THE NORTHEAST MARKED THE FRONTIER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 1642

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

8. ADMIRAL WEISNER ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC GROUPINGS WITHIN THE REGION. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT COMMON MARKET ARRANGEMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE DIFFICULT TO REALIZE AS THE FIRST INSTINCTS OF MOST LDC'S WERE PROTECTIONIST. HOWEVER, INDIA, NEPAL, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN SHARE COMMON RIVERS WHICH IS A BASIS FOR COOPERATION AMONG THEM. INDIA CAN NOT, HE SAID, TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS AREA, AS IT WILL BE ACCUSED OF "MINI-IMPERIALISM." INDIA'S NEEDS WERE LESS THAN THOSE OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AS INDIA HAD ITS OWN HUGE INTERNAL MARKET.

9. ON RELATIONS WITH NEPAL, THE SECRETARY WAS GENERALLY UNCONFIDENTIAL

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BEAT. THE CURRENT EFFORT WAS TO "MODERNIZE" THE EXISTING TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY, AND HE SINGLED OUT SMUGGLING AS AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM FOR RESOLUTION. HE STATED THAT RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS IN COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEPAL'S WATER RESOURCES.

10. INDIA SEEKS A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS BANGLADESH, THE SECRETARY SAID. THE SHORT-TERM FARAKKA WATER PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED, AND HE NOTED THAT THE JOINT RIVER COMMISSION MET JUST LAST WEEK TO WORK ON THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION. INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH HAVE NOW "SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED", AND

INDIA IS "GROPING" TOWARDS OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION.

11. IN RESPONSE TO ADMIRAL WEISNER'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, MEHTA SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE IN ITS TOTALITY: "FOOLS MARCH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD." ADMIRAL WEISNER NOTED THE RECENT INCREASED USE OF ADEN BY THE SOVIETS, WHICH PROMPTED MEHTA TO STATE THAT SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDIA HAD NEVER BECOME A POLITICAL FACTOR. EQUIPMENT WAS PROCURED, BUT SOVIETS WERE NOT INTEGRATED INTO THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND. ASKED ABOUT THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, MEHTA SAID INDIA GENERALLY WAS NOT IN FAVOR; IT CREATED PROBLEMS. INDIA HAS NO SPECIAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH CUBA, WITH WHICH IT IS ASSOCIATED IN THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. MEHTA SAID THAT INDIA SOUGHT TO INFLUENCE THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ALONG MODERATE LINES BUT NOTED THAT THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN HAVANA. "LET'S SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN THERE," HE SAID.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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